In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 8, without prejudice; add new claims 10-15; and amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic radial tire production method comprising the steps of:

forming a primary green tire including a carcass layer and being supported on a pair of bead supporting members;

forming a cylindrical belt tread assembly including belt layers;

transferring the belt tread assembly to ~~the~~an outer peripheral side of the primary green tire by use of a transfer apparatus;

pressure-bonding the belt tread assembly to the primary green tire inflated in a toroidal shape,

wherein the primary green tire and the belt tread assembly are pressure-bonded to each other in a state where the transfer apparatus allows a center portion of the belt tread assembly to swell radially outward by reducing a space between the bead supporting members to cause the carcass layer to press against the center portion while holding both sides of the belt tread assembly,

wherein the transfer apparatus includes a plurality of holding members which hold the belt tread assembly from an outer peripheral side, and has a structure in which holding surfaces of the respective holding members are divided in a width direction of the belt tread assembly,

wherein a width of each of the divided holding surfaces of each holding member is set to 5 to 30% of a width of the innermost laminated belt layer, and

wherein each of the holding members has a continuous portion, which is connected ~~by a pair of radially extending portions~~ to a pair of holding surfaces separated from each other in the width direction of the belt tread assembly, the pair of holding surfaces being arranged at positions at which they abut against two ends of the belt tread assembly.

2-9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the continuous portion is curved radially outward between the pair of holding surfaces.

11. (New) The method as defined in claim 10, wherein the pair of holding surfaces are curved to generally follow a curvature of the continuous portion.

12. (New) The method as defined in claim 10, wherein the holding surfaces are provided with a plurality of protrusions for preventing movement of the belt tread assembly.

13. (New) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the continuous portion extends generally in a straight line in the width direction when seen in a cross sectional view.

14. (New) The method as defined in claim 13, wherein the pair of holding surfaces are spaced from the continuous portion towards the primary green tire, and extend generally in a straight line in the width direction when seen in a cross sectional view.

15. (New) The method as defined in claim 13, wherein the pair of holding surfaces are spaced from the continuous portion towards the primary green tire and curved in the width direction.